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Nr. Peter R. Taft Assistant Attorney General Land & Natural Resources Division Department of Justice Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Toft:

Thank you for your letter of March 23, 1976, concorning the asbestos waste piles in Ambier, Pennsylvania.

The Rugional Office has been involved with this problem since Decomber, 1971. Until recently, effective control of these piles has proven to be a most difficult and makeard problem to address, due to a lack of legal authority and the actual size and age of the waste disposal area. Enclosed you will find a report prepared earlier this ear which is part of another EPA document on the subject of toxic bustances, which should summarize the past history of this case.

Our latest efforts resulted from EPA's promulgation on October 14, 1975 of new regulations under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act (National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS)). We believe that these regulations which address the disposal of asbestos wasto in addition to the efforts by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DEN) in accordance with their solid wasto requiations, will abate the potential public health danger with respect to these piles.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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MESTAP regulations. We espect that our formal pursuit of this item with the company will, in all likelihood, result in the cessation of further thisping by the company and result in an additional recycling or disposal at a sanitary landfill.

The regulations also make provision for the companies to protect the area from persons inadvertently entering onto the disposal site. We are presently pursuing provisions for additional fencing and the posting of warning signs around the perimeter of the asbestos piles. We anticipate that the signs will be posted within approximately two months and that the fencing should be done shortly thereafter.

Another remaining area of concorn is the final stabilization of the k ste piles although considerable plant growth has already been established on some portions. Micolet Corporation's refuse site has steep slopes. The Company has issued a contract to the University of Ponnsylvania to pursue an effective solution to their problem. It is expected that a sufficient plant cover will require approximately two years to complete.

You may be interested to know that EFA is conducting a sampling program of the water in this area to determine the impact that these waste disposal practices may have on the ground water. Also, we shall review the recent epidiomological study conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. This report concluded that there were no significant incidents of asbestos related concers in the Borough of Ambler or in the surrounding communities. We do not, however, discount the fact that these ashestes waste piles may be a very sorious and a perentially hazardous situation. Therefore, this source will continue to receive a high priority in our enforcement program.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hositate to call upon me.

Paniel J. Ynyder, III Revignal Administrator

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